5/8/70

Dr. Russell S. Fisher
111 Penn St.,
Baltimore, Md. 21201

Dear Dr. Fisher,

Cast yourself in the role of God if you like, but I'd like to keep from casting your in the role of the devil. Unless you have already done it, which would make it impossible, wouldn't it?

You are as consistent as man can be and evasive as none in my experience in a field in which such men have predominated. Again you go into (welcome) detail about what I didn't ask and avoid what I did ask.

If your letter of the fourth is the last you will write me in answer to my perfectly proper requests, I encourage you to look forward to making your responses in court, for if you were unaware of it, if I do not get what I believe the law entitles me to, it is my intent to seek it in court. I would much prefer to avoid this. I would suggest you, all the other members of both panels and the government should also. I do not seek and I would like to avoid scandalous treatment of this subject.

In the event you are capable of what I do not detect in your letters, detached thinking on this subject, perhaps it will occur to you that I am taking to much trouble than is necessary for a prelude to legal action. In turn, this might suggest that I do seek to avoid it if at all possible. You should also be able to understand that if I go to court I will attract more attention to myself and my work than I can in any other way. Therefore, is it not possible that in trying to obviate the need for legal action my purposes are not selfish, not to needlessly hurt others, not to create scandals?

All I want is what should never be hidden, what I am entitled to, and what your undeviating evasiveness is enough to cause the deepest misgivings about.

I accept your assurances that you destroyed "all intermediate copies of the report", I would like to know why, for this is unrelated to your alleged agreement; whether this was approved by the other panel members, including Mr. Eisenberg, the government; and whether any were consulted in advance.

You make no mention at all of the indispensible working papers of your panel. I again ask what disposition was made of them.

No other member of your panel or the autopsy doctors has responded. I have sent copies of my letters to them. I therefore assume you speak for them and with their consent. If you make the record they want to live with, so be it.

cc members both panels

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg